Please amend claims 1 and 3-8 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A process for the oxidation of a starch, wherein a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, is treated with an alkali metal hypochlorite [and the resulting] to form a product, said product is subjected to an alkaline treatment, said treatment comprising keeping the product for at least 15 minutes at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10.--

--3. (Amended) A process according to claim 1[or 2], wherein the alkaline treatment lasts at least at least 30 minutes, preferably at least 60 minutes.

--4. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the alkaline treatment is performed at a pH higher than 10.5.--

--5. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the alkali metal hypochlorite is sodium hypochlorite.

--6. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the starch is treated with the [oxidizing agent]alkali metal hypochlorite at a pH between 6 and 10, preferably between 6.5 and 8.5.

--7. (Amended) An oxidized starch obtainable by a process according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1.--

Please add the following new claims:

10. A binder in paper coatings or surface sizings consisting essentially of an oxidized starch according to claim 7.

11. An adhesive consisting essentially of an oxidized starch according to claim 7.

12. A protective colloid for stabilizing emulsions consisting essentially of an oxidized starch according to claim 7.

13. A coating of glass fibers in warp yarn sizing consisting essentially of an oxidized starch according to claim 7.

14. A food additive consisting essentially of an oxidized starch according to claim 7.

AFTER THE CLAIMS:

On a separate sheet, after the claims, please insert the following:

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a process for the oxidation of a starch, wherein a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, is treated with an oxidizing agent and the resulting product, said product is subjected to an alkaline treatment, said treatment comprising keeping the product for at least 15 minutes at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10. The invention further relates to an oxidized starch obtainable by said process and to various applications of said oxidized starch.